

REMARKS

The amendment to claims 1 and 9 is supported by the original specification at paragraphs [0030] and [0035]. The amendment to claim 5 implements the clarification requested in the office action. The amendments to the specification and drawing correct reference numeral mismatches between the drawings and specification and other informalities. Applicant submits that the amendment does not add any new matter to the disclosure.

Applicant confirms the election of Species 1, claims 1-5 and 9, without traverse. In the event claim 1 is considered allowable, applicant respectfully requests that the withdrawn claims be rejoined per MPEP 821.04.

Applicant submits that the objection to the drawing regarding reference to plate 22(2) has been overcome by amending paragraph [0027] to correct the reference numeral which had been incorrectly indicated and the amendments to paragraphs [0039] and [0042] which reference distances in Figure 6. Applicant's amendment of Figure 1 corrects an incorrect reference numeral. Thus, applicant submits that the drawings are now in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Applicant submits that the amendment to the specification addresses the informality pointed out in the office action. Applicant submits that the specification is now in compliance with 35 USC 112.

Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 9 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been addressed by the amendments that remove use of the indefinite pronoun "it" and by clarifying references to the term "screw" in claim 5.

The invention centers on a staging for a large substrate such as a flat panel display screen. The invention provides an easily moved stage which is capable of fine adjustment for large scale pieces. The invention is especially characterized by use of a screw-based fine adjustment mechanism.

Sakino et al. (US 5,040,431) discloses a movement mechanism for a stage. Sakino et al. does not disclose or suggest use of a screw mechanism as part of a directional driving means, nor the use of a screw mechanism for fine adjustment.

Takahashi discloses a carriage for fine movement of a substrate where a screw based adjustment means is used to move the table. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest the concept of integrating such screw mechanism with a means for forcibly moving the table. Thus, applicant submits that the combination of Sakino et al. and Takahashi would result in different configuration than what is required in the present claim where the screw mechanism and forcible movement means are integrated.

For the above reasons, applicant submits that the claims are now patentable over the prior art of record and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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